

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, GE
SUBJECT: GDR HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 092282

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, THE "GDR COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS" WAS FOUNDED IN MAY 1959; ITS NAME WAS CHANGED TO THE "GDR COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS" IN 1969. THROUGH MOST OF ITS LIFE IT HAS CONCENTRATED ON PUBLICIZING ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE WEST, PARTICULARLY "NEO-NAZI" ACTIVITIES AND INFLUENCE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, AND IN ADVERTISING THE HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GDR. ITS BASIC LINE HAS BEEN THAT ONLY IN SOCIALISM CAN HUMAN RIGHTS BE TRULY FULFILLED AND THAT THE NATURE OF CAPITALISTIC AND IMPERIALISTIC SOCIETIES IN THE WEST, AND ESPECIALLY THE NAZI-TINGED CHARACTER OF THE FRG, ARE ANTITHETICAL TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ITS EARLIER YEARS, THE ORGANIZATION PROTESTED ACTIVELY AGAINST THE PROHIBITION OF THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

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2. THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS IN THE HANDS OF PERSONS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE GDR AND SED. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE SINCE ITS FOUNDING HAS BEEN FRIEDEL MALTER, 75, AN SED MEMBER WHO WAS STATE SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN 1950-58. THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY IS SIEGFRIED FORBERGER, ALSO AN SED MEMBER. THE COMMITTEE OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN A COMPLEX OF

BUILDINGS WHICH HOUSE VARIOUS REGIME-SUPPORTIVE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL FRONT, SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES, ETC.

3. THE COMMITTEE PUBLISHES VARIOUS PAMPHLETS, "DOCUMENTATIONS," ETC., SOMETIMES IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH AS WELL AS GERMAN.

4. COMMENT: THE SELF-DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMITTEE CONTAINED PARA 2 OF REFTEL AS A "NON-STATE ORGANIZATION" IS DISINGENUOUS AT BEST. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT CONTAINS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES, UNIONS AND OTHER GROUPS AS DESCRIBED. HOWEVER, ALL OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT EXCEPTION ARE THE CREATURES OF THE SED AND MAINTAIN NOTHING WHICH COULD BE DESCRIBED AS INDEPENDENT POSITIONS OR POLICIES. THE SAME IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE CASE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. ITS RAISON D'ETRE IS TO PROCLAIM THE GLORIES OF SOCIALISM AS PRACTICED IN THE GDDR AND TO DENOUNCE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, SHORTCOMINGS OF "NON-SOCIALIST" SOCIETIES, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. ITS INTEREST IN THE ANGELA DAVIS CASE IS PREDICTABLE. WE WOULD ASSESS ITS ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT AS NIL; ITS ROLE IS THAT OF MOUTHPIECE. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD COPIES OF COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS. BOLEN
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